

# THE GATEWAY

volume XCV number 3 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 9 june, 2005



**THE BIG BLUE ALBERTA SKY IS THE LIMIT** University President Rod Fraser gives his last set of speeches to convocating students this week before moving off into retirement. This year, ceremonies were held in the Universiade Pavilion (better known as the Butterdome) because of centennial renovations being done on the Jubilee Auditorium. To read ruminations of newly degreed students on their education and new-found non-studenthood, turn the page for this issue's edition of "Streeters." Convocation ceremonies conclude tomorrow, 10 June.

## SU may halt tobacco sales

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Senior News Editor

A motion scheduled to be considered by Students' Council next week could see the Students' Union end tobacco sales at its businesses by the end of the month.

The SU recently banned smoking in its bars, and Science Councilor Stephen Kirkham, who introduced the motion, said he sees ending tobacco sales as a natural next step. In part, he said, he's concerned about the political consistency of the SU, which last year received a grant to run its Tobacco Reduction Project campaign.

"Last year we had a \$50 000 grant from AAADAC to reduce tobacco use on campus, yet at the same time the Students' Union was profiting off the realm of over \$30 000 a year," he said. "It doesn't quite make sense."

## Canadian astronaut lands on campus to give lecture

HANNA NASH  
News Writer

While the idea of being blasted away from Earth on a space shuttle would intimidate most people, astronauts like Canada's Bjarni Tryggvason find that the excitement and danger are what make his job so unique and perfectly suited for him.

Tryggvason, who came to share his experience in space with University of Alberta staff and students during a day-long research symposium last Thursday, has worked as an astronaut for the Canada Space Agency for the past 20 years. He has made one trip to space in his career, during an August 1997 expedition aboard the space shuttle Discovery after training in Moscow with Americans and Russians.

It was then that Tryggvason was finally given the opportunity to perform his tests on the fundamental differences between fluids in outer space.

"It took about one year to prepare for that specific flight," he said. "But a lot of the experiments—and devel-

oping the hardware—took about three to four years, and all of that was done after doing background training, which took two to three years. So it was a long process."

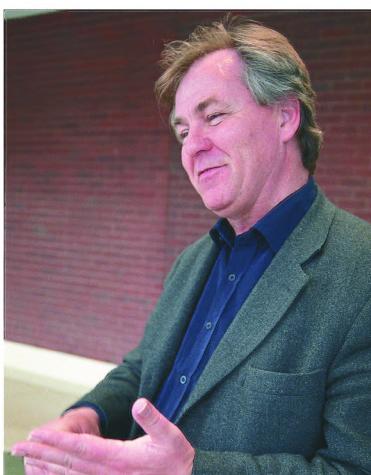
**"I had a great view of the Earth. It's a bit like being in a dreamland."**

**ASTRONAUT BJARNI TRYGGVASON,  
ON HIS 1997 TRIP TO SPACE**

Even though it took a lot of time and effort for Tryggvason to prepare to go into space, it was a rewarding trip for him to take. The risk associated with space travel didn't, and still doesn't, seem to bother him when he thinks about the time he spent on Discovery.

"It was a great experience," said Tryggvason. "I had a great view of the Earth. It's a bit like being in a dreamland. You're doing things that you're familiar with, but in a different kind of setting that you're unfamiliar with."

PLEASE SEE ASTRONAUT • PAGE 2



**ROCKET MAN** Canadian astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason spoke on campus about his research and experiences last week.

**"What I think the SU ultimately needs to do is decide, at the end of the day, what's more important—that we focus on the health and well-being of students on campus, or that we make money?"**

STEPHEN KIRKHAM,  
SCIENCE COUNCILOR

Though Kirkham originally moved the potential ban, he now says he hopes that Council will strike an ad-hoc committee to deal with the matter in the context of a broader examination of the health and well-being of students. He argued that the SU needs to prioritize its goals, including health, financial issues and other matters, to provide a proper context to decisions such as the tobacco ban.

"What I think the SU ultimately needs to do is decide, at the end of the day, what's more important—that we focus on the health and well-being of students on campus, or that we make money?" he said.

PLEASE SEE AUCTION • PAGE 3

## Inside

News	1-3
Opinion	4-5
Feature	6
Sports	7-8
A&E	9-11
Comics	12
Classifieds	12



## Overwhelming E3

Read about Daniel Kaszor's quest to find out the truth about the world's largest video game trade show.

FEATURE, PAGE 6



## Colourize!

Marvel as Logic Puzzle finally moves out of the '50s and into Technicolour, much to Robot's chagrin.

COMICS, PAGE 12

# THE GATEWAY

thursday, 9 june, 2005

volume XCIV Number 3

Published since 21 November, 1910  
ISSN 0845-356X

Suite 3-04

Students' Union Building  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6G 2Z7

Telephone 780.492.5168

Fax 780.492.6665

E-mail gateway@gatewaysualberta.ca

## editorial staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Daniel Kaczor  
eck@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.5168MANAGING EDITOR David Berry  
managing@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.6654SENIOR NEWS EDITOR Jake Troughton  
news@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.7058DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR Chloe Fedio  
deputynews@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.6664OPINION EDITOR Tim Peppin  
opinion@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.6663ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Mike Larocque  
entertainment@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.7052SPORTS EDITOR Chris O'Leary  
sports@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.6652PHOTO EDITOR Matthew Frehner  
photo@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.6649DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR Iris Tie  
production@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.6651

## business staff

BUSINESS MANAGER Don Iveson  
bzi@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.6669AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE Patrick Ciolek  
sales@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.6700AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER Lisa Lundi  
design@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.6647CIRCULATION PAL Adam Gauntlett  
circulation@gatewaysualberta.ca 492.6659

**THE GATEWAY** is produced by the  
Student Journal Society (CJSU), a non-profit  
apartheid not-for-profit organization,  
operated in accordance with the  
Societies Act of Alberta.

## complaints

Comments, concerns, or complaints about the Gateway's content or operations should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address listed below. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to complain, if may be taken to the Gateway Student Journal Society's Board of Directors, beyond that, appeal is to the non-partisan Society OnBudsman. The chair of the Board of OnBudsman can be reached at the address above.

## copyright

All materials appearing in the Gateway bear copyright of their creators and may not be used without written consent.

## disclaimers

Opinions expressed in the pages of the Gateway are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Gateway or the Gateway Student Journalism Society.

Additionally, the opinions expressed in advertisements appearing in the Gateway are those of the advertisers and not the Gateway nor the Gateway Student Journalism Society unless expressly stated.

## colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Imaxx PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe Photoshop is used for layout. Illustrator is used for vector images. QuarkXPress is used for page layout. The images Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights. The font used for the Gateway logo, The Manitoba is the Gateway's sister paper. The Gateway's games of choice are EVO, Super Mario World 2: Yoshi's Island and chess.

## contributors

Janes Storie, Ross Pruzakowski, Tyson Durst, Jessica Warren, Elizabeth Vail, Geoff Clarke, Scott C Bourgeois, Mike Robertson, Rotating Dog, Bill Ferguson, Hanna Nash, Chad Barans, Leah Collins, Nick "Lunch" Weber, Michael Liu, and Camille Feng.

# Doing research in space a 'dangerous job': Tryggvason

ASTRONAUT \* CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tryggvason's lecture on campus last week focused on how fluids act in space, which is his main area of research and interest.

"In my research, I look at the behaviour of fluids as they impact material science, biological experiments, and how fluids fundamentally behave in the space environment," explained Tryggvason.

"Most of my research is in how water, liquid metals, fluids that are

"You don't get paid to be scared. It's a statistic that six to eight per cent of people who go into space die during their attempt. You can't find a more dangerous job."

BJARNI TRYGGVASON

used to grow protein crystals and all are influenced when in space."

Although the main focus of Tryggvason's job is to train for flying into space, he also does a lot of work with the engineering community that supports the whole space station operation. Working closely with engineers is very important, Tryggvason explained, since he and other astronauts must make sure that the hardware used in space will function

properly, and is built to interact with people.

"The engineers get involved with the scientists who are building experiments to make sure that they're designing experiments in such a way that they're operational in space," he said.

"People don't always think of all the issues that you run into ... You don't get paid to be scared. It's a statistic that six to eight per cent of people who go into space die during their attempt. You can't find a more dangerous job."

## CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Jake Troughton  
(news@gatewaysualberta.ca)

### THIEF MOVES QUICKLY

At 3:20pm on 26 May, two female students reported their credit cards had been stolen from their backpacks in the Fine Arts Building. Within a matter of hours, one of the complainants had \$1000 worth of merchandise put on her card, while the other had \$600 put on hers.

### THIEF CAUGHT QUICKLY

At 6:20pm on 27 May, a student reported the theft of his mountain bike from the Natural Resources Engineering Facility. Based on the description of the bicycle provided by the complainant, a

suspect was identified near 87 Ave and 114 Street. The bicycle was confirmed as the one recently stolen and the non-affiliated male suspect was arrested for being in possession of stolen property.

### DETERMINED Hooligan

At 1:51pm on 29 May, constables observed two males throwing road signs and barriers onto 87 Avenue near 114 Street. One of the non-affiliated males was issued a violation notice for stunting. He was later observed knocking a bus bench over, netting him a second ticket and a ride home.

### OFFICE TARGETED AGAIN

Just before 2pm on 29 May, 5-o received a report of a break and enter into an office in the Van Vlet Center. The same office had been broken into earlier in May. Two flat-screen monitors were stolen in this incident, and the Edmonton Police Service forensics unit is investigating.

### STOP THIS, OFFICER!

Around 7:45pm on 29 May, a constable on foot patrol observed a yellow Monte Carlo stuntng near 87 Ave and 114 Street. The passenger in the vehicle gave the constable the finger as the vehicle sped past. The constable radioed to a patrol unit, who stopped the vehicle east of the Physical Education building. The driver was found to be intoxicated and was issued a 24-hour suspension and a violation notice for stunting. His vehicle was towed.

### WELL-EQUIPPED TRESPASSER

At 1:55pm on 31 May, constables observed a male behaving in a suspicious manner near the south end of HUB Mall. Both males were recognized by the constables as having been previously suspended from University property. They were approached, and a criminal record check revealed that both had outstanding warrants for their arrest. A search of one of the males revealed a concealed knife. Both were turned over to the EPS.

passing and possession of the tools and turned over to EPS.

### HUB A LOITERER RECEPTACLE

At 3pm on 1 June, constables observed two non-affiliated males loitering near the south end of HUB Mall. Both males were recognized by the constables as having been previously suspended from University property. They were approached, and a criminal record check revealed that both had outstanding warrants for their arrest. A search of one of the males revealed a concealed knife. Both were turned over to the EPS.

### WRONG TURN

Just before 12:30am on 2 June, a vehicle was stopped for driving the wrong way on a one-way 110 Street and 88 Ave. The non-affiliated female driver displayed obvious signs of marijuana intoxication and was issued a 24-hour suspension. Her vehicle was subsequently towed.

## STREETERS

It's convocation week, and campus is crawling with newly graduated former students.

What have you got out of your university education?



Melissa Lazaruk  
Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education



Lisa Billesberger  
Bachelor of Science



Ken Kaneda  
Bachelor of Science



Farmina Remtulla  
Bachelor of Science

Well, I spent lots of money. I've grown up; I think that's the most important thing. The University has taught me that it's not just about school. It's about growing up and becoming who I am, and meeting lots of people and barely going to class and partying. That was my university life.

I've gotten a lot of experience and knowledge and I have a better idea of what I'd like to do with my future.

Other than the huge debt, I got my piece of paper, my degree, I guess. Mostly experience working with other people, learning to work with groups. Hopefully that will translate into something good in the industry.

I think I've grown more as a person. I have a different view on what's going on in society today, and I take more of a multidimensional approach to analyzing situations or issues that occur in society.

Compiled and photographed by Chris O'Leary and Jake Troughton

Our games room is moving and will be open all summer



15% off  
all food items

11am  
to  
5pm

Monday  
to  
Friday

with this coupon



\$9.50 Jugs of Beer  
every day from 11am to 9pm

\$175 Highballs

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
from 7pm to 9pm



IRIS TSE

HESITANT VP (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias warns of the financial implications of ending SU tobacco sales.

## Tobacco ban could cost SU over \$50 000

ACTION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I have my own opinion on [what the SU should do], but it needs to decide what its opinion is on that, and until these goals are prioritized, it's very difficult to make decisions that would be affected by those goals."

Last year, the SU made about \$36 000 in net revenue from tobacco sales, including \$30 000 at SUBmart and \$6000 from Powerplant vending machines. According to Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias, the SU is already expecting to lose at least half of the machine sales due to the Powerplant becoming a non-smoking venue.

He added, however, that a study has put the potential loss of revenue at SUBmart at as much as \$50 000, out of total revenues of about \$90 000, due to the potential loss of non-tobacco sales from tobacco-purchasing customers.

"If this motion goes through, that would essentially be \$53 000 off our bottom line," said Tobias.

"That's not \$53 000 that we have

to spend, or that we have any leeway with, so the next question is, where do we cut? ... If we were to take that out of our budget for this coming year, it would essentially be a matter of cutting a service."

**"I think it would be a mistake to dash into this headlong and just turn around and ban it in a month. That's not a fiscally prudent move, and it would cause a lot more hurt than it would be worth."**

**JASON TOBIAS,**  
STUDENTS' UNION VICE-PRESIDENT  
(OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

Kirkham acknowledged that the financial impact could be severe,

but argued that if Council views the health of students as a high priority, a ban would be a necessary principled stand.

"If our ultimate goal is that the SU shouldn't facilitate the demise of the health and well-being of students, then at the end of the day it shouldn't matter how much money we lose," he said. "That's what our statement is, and we're going to go towards that."

While Tobias indicated that he's prepared to accommodate whatever decision Council ultimately makes, he suggested that a gradual approach would have much less of a negative impact on the SU than a sudden ban.

"If Council decides that in the grant scheme of things, we don't want to be selling tobacco products, then let's take steps to stop selling them," he said.

"But I think it would be a mistake to dash into this headlong and just turn around and ban it in a month. That's not a fiscally prudent move, and it would cause a lot more hurt than it would be worth."

## COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Ross Prusakowski

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14 June.

Council often battles a reputation for inefficiency among many students. On 31 May, though, Council fit the stereotypical to a tee, as confusion and a lengthy squabble over a procedural matter took up most of the meeting.

### COMMITTEE CONFUSION

Though most committee spots were filled the previous meeting, there were still plenty of vacancies, including on the Access Fund Board, Audit Committee, and numerous others. Most of these seats were vacant due to a lack of nominations at the previous meeting, but some openings arose from the resignation of Science Councillor Rachel Woynowski, who stepped down to accept the position of Chief Returning Officer.

Since many councilors already sit on a committee, nominations were thrown around nearly every member in the hopes that enough would accept them. Struggling to get all the committees up to quorum, some members took part in a time-consuming game of accepting a nomina-

tion but then declining it after another councilor entered the race.

This approach, along with the number of committees with vacancies, left many councilors confused as to exactly which they had been nominated for. At one point, Education Councillor Trevor Danas accepted a nomination that quickly declined on the basis that he didn't realize which committee was being discussed.

### IRONY SINKS COUNCIL

After a lengthy process, Council eventually managed to bring all of its committees up to full strength and proceeded to dedicate most of the rest of the meeting to discussing Council quorum requirements. The matter had been considered briefly at the last meeting, but in an ultimately futile effort to save time, the Council Administration Committee (CAC) was given the task of coming up with a recommendation on the issue.

In its report to Council, CAC recommended, in a split decision, that quorum remain 25 voting members, regardless of how many seats are actually filled. Council, however, decided to reject the recommendation and partake in another lengthy debate on the subject.

In the end, Council settled on quorum being equivalent to half the number of seats filled by voting members, meaning that it would currently stand at 17, rather than 34 of the 48 council seats are filled.

In an ironic turn, since the decision to reduce quorum doesn't take effect until their next meeting, Council was forced to adjourn early due to the departure of

a number of members, leaving much of the agenda still yet to be debated.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias informed Council that the price of Cole products from vending machines across campus will increase by a quarter effective in the fall.

In response to a question during question period, Vice-President (Academic) Mat Johnson noted that the 24/7 SUB project looked to be a success and that the SU is pursuing a funding agreement with the dean of students to launch the program permanently, beginning in the fall semester.

Johnson also said that the SU was looking to develop a training program on the use of smart classrooms so that student groups wishing to use them can do so without having to pay \$40 for a technician to operate the room.

### Correction!

In volume XCIV, issue 2 of the Gateway, published Thursday, 26 May, 2005, we reported that the Jim Hole receiving an honorary degree from the University of Alberta this week is the same Jim Hole who sits on the U of A Senate. In fact, Senator Hole is the nephew of the honorary degree recipient. We apologize for the error.

Paul Lorieau's University Optical



# Free vision test

with purchase of lenses or complete eyeglasses

4 3 3 - 5 5 0 0

Conveniently located at 11170-82 Ave Edmonton AB T6G 2L8



## St. Vital

A Unique Student Dormitory

in the Heart of Edmonton

9916 110 Street (viewing by appointment only)

Three storey historical building

Furnished rooms from \$200.00 to \$450.00 per month

- One LRT stop from the U of A and one LRT stop from Grant MacEwan College
- Two blocks from major grocery store and over a dozen restaurants within a 10 minute walk
- A block and a half north of the North Saskatchewan River and a block and a half south of Jasper Avenue
- Free laundry facilities
- Each floor has a TV room and a study room
- Internet access (wireless and cable)
- Recreation/Games Room
- Dining room (microwave ovens & vending machines)
- Food services possible depending on demand
- Limited parking available at extra cost.

Koradian

Exchange Services Ltd.

For information and viewing appointment

call 988-2003 or e-mail info@koradian.com

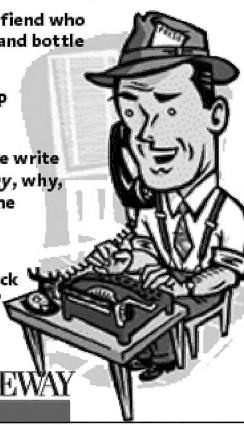
## What's that you say?

You're the vile fiend who  
stole my cigar and bottle  
of gin?

Why that's TOP  
COPY, see?

And if you come write  
for the Gateway, why,  
this'll just be the  
beginning!

Now gimme back  
my booze, see?



## THE GATEWAY

# OPINION

opinion@gatewayualberta.ca + thursday 9 june, 2005

## Outrage over Grewal tapes aimed at the wrong target

CONSERVATIVE MP GURMANT GREWAL no doubt knew when he recorded conversations with two key Liberals that the recordings would cause a media storm upon their release, but he probably expected that more of that storm's fury would actually be focused on the Liberals.

You couldn't blame him for thinking that. The tapes are of conversations among Grewal, Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh, and Tim Murphy, the prime minister's chief of staff, in which the two Liberals allegedly offer Grewal political rewards in exchange for abstaining from a confidence vote. The NDP, Bloc Québécois and others have called on the RCMP to investigate whether the conversations violated criminal code provisions against attempting to buy the vote of an MP. Yet much of the media coverage has focused on Liberal counter-accusations against Grewal that he aggressively pursued a deal that the virtuous Liberals refused to buy into.

Now, Grewal shouldn't be free from scrutiny in this matter. He took part in the conversations too, and his motivations remain unclear. But the extent to which the Liberals have successfully manipulated the media coverage, and the sheer ease with which they've done so, is disheartening.

Their defense basically amounts to, "He started it"—which shouldn't work any better in Parliament than on the playground—and an unsubstantiated, "There was no deal." With that, the Liberals quickly put the Tories on the defensive, as reporters rushed to question Grewal's integrity, or the Conservatives' reasons for taking nearly two weeks to release the full tapes—which, while certainly questionable and a huge strategic blunder if nothing else, has absolutely nothing to do with the question of whether Dosanjh and Murphy acted appropriately.

In fact, almost nothing the Liberals have said in response to the scandal has been relevant. Whether or not Grewal initiated the discussions on the tapes does not change how Dosanjh and Murphy acted on them. And, of course, there was no deal made; for one thing, if there had been, then Grewal wouldn't have released those tapes. But beyond that, the tapes show the two Liberals explaining how to go about the process in a way that will allow the parties to deny that a deal was made.

"You have to be able to say that I did not make a deal. That's very important," Dosanjh explains in one of the recordings. But, he adds later, "I think we all understand what we are talking about." Murphy, Dosanjh and the rest of the Liberals are, in short, issuing exactly the sort of denials that they are heard on tape preparing themselves to make in the event of a non-deal deal. Sadly, though, it appears to be enough to shift the media's attention to the opposition.

The Tories' media relations through this situation have been nothing short of disastrous, and frankly exacerbate questions about their preparedness to form a government. But whatever this story says about the Conservatives, it says as much or more about the Liberals. What Murphy and Dosanjh did was almost certainly unethical, and quite possibly criminal (though that's a matter for the courts to decide, should it go that far). While Grewal may not be free of sin in this matter himself, the Liberals should be facing a much larger share of the fury.

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Senior News Editor

## This just in: up is down, down is up

THIS MONDAY, APPLE CEO Steve Jobs announced that the Macintosh operating system will now be ported to work on Intel 86x processors.

Now, to most of you guys, this means nothing, but to diehard Mac fans like myself, this is like a Catholic hearing that the Pope isn't so hot on that Jesus fellow and might be following the teachings of Satan from now on. Ugh, I think I have to wash the thought of OS X running on a WinTel machine out of my head.

DANIEL KASZOR  
Editor-in-Chief



## LETTERS

### No broadcast no fault of TSN's

Simply for your information, in the case of the East-West Bowl, TSN did not "yank their broadcast at the last minute because they thought their viewers would rather see tennis, Sportscentre, and Junior A hockey" ("Stop playing around with OS," TSN, 26 May).

As you might imagine, we, at the CIS, do not always agree with TSN's decisions in regards to programming, but I think it is important not to blame them when they are not at fault. This said, continue your outstanding work with all the team at the Gateway—we always enjoy reading you guys.

MICHEL BELANGER  
Communications Manager  
Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS)

### Enjoy your lunch, O'Leary, and watch the 'hobo etiquette'

In response to Chris O'Leary's misguided editorial about his encounter with a homeless man, I would just like to say how disappointed I am that people like O'Leary seem to think that they've "done enough" in regards to the homeless problem.

I'm not sure exactly how much Mr. O'Leary gave this homeless man, but I'd be willing to bet it is far less

than what he spent on his lunch that day, or how much he spent on the screen was nowhere near "redeeming" the misguided prequel trilogy.

Episode III picked up right where the other two prequels left off in terms of grandioses, overblown special effects that only serve to show how much fun Lucas can have with a computer, as well as continuing the prequel tradition of horribly wooden dialogue and character relationships that are implied, but never actually seen. It's almost amazing how Lucas actually manages to make the real, human actors look less expressive and emotive than their droid or computer-generated counterparts.

And that's not even getting into the surprising number of laugh-out-loud bad scenes, from the Emperor's over-the-top delivery in any scene he's in to the crowning glory of unintentionally funny cinema, the scene where the seven-foot, all-black Darth Vader attempts to cry for his lost love using a metal body and a computerized-sounding James Earl Jones voice.

Maybe Kaszor and Larocque are just stuck in fan-boy mode, or in their childhood, but their suggestion that this is "satisfying finish to the Star Wars franchise" is almost laughable. Enjoy your summer blockbuster season, boys—they'll be plenty more big, dumb, CGI-heavy action movies to come. Maybe those will redeem the shitty state of Hollywood movies, yeah, right.

TARA PICARNE  
Arts II

### Episode III was terrible, Kaszor and Larocque

I'm not sure how brainwashed by George Lucas your so-called "Star Wars editors," Daniel Kaszor and Mike Larocque, are, but I can't believe their review of the latest edition of Lucas' space tale, Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith ("The power of the Dark Side," 26 May). Perhaps they actually fell asleep in the theatre, and instead were reviewing what they imag-

Sports hardly nerdy,  
Prusakowski

Upon opening the Sports section of the Thursday, 26 May edition of the Gateway I literally spit my coffee all over myself.

Ross Prusakowski's article ("Sports nerds of the world, unite") lacked almost all semblance of common sense. Prusakowski's thesis that sports nerds are ostracized more than regular "nerds" is preposterous. If anything, sports nerds get away with significantly more nerdiness because the topic that they associate themselves with is ostensibly "cool" and "active."

I would like to see Mr. Prusakowski start up a conversation about Babylon 5 or Pokemon and compare the reaction he gets to talking about football.

GEOFF WADE  
Engineering III

Letters to the editor should be e-mailed to gateway@gatewayualberta.ca or dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication. Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. So don't try it.

FRANCIS WONG  
Science II

# 'Deep Throat' can teach us something about real investigative journalism



IRIS  
TSE

Earlier last week, Mark Felt was revealed as the man who they called "Deep Throat," the much-suspected informant in the Watergate scandal whose identity was one of America's most tightly guarded secrets. This legendary figure, who directly triggered the events that later led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon, was in fact an ex-FBI agent who once occupied the second-highest slot in the FBI chain of command.

Whether Watergate was political sabotage or a national wakeup call—whether Felt was a disgruntled employee who didn't get the promotion he wanted or a patriotic whistle-blower—is still up for history to determine. However, one thing we can learn from this event is the importance of journalism as a, if not *the*, government watchdog.

Admittedly, I am too young to have been there as Watergate unfolded. In fact, I am even too young to have seen all *All the President's Men* when it first came out in theaters. However, I am old enough to familiarize myself

with the major players who ushered the downfall of a presidency. Most important of all those players were the *Washington Post* reporters, Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, who tenaciously "followed the money" and eventually uncovered the corruption of the Nixon government. This, not hovering over the Neverland Ranch in the *Entertainment Tonight* helicopter, is what investigative journalism is all about.

However, investigative journalism isn't limited to determined writers. It also takes an editor and publisher with a strong backbone to put it into print. All that investigative reporting on Watergate wouldn't have taken place without the backing of Ben Bradlee, the legendarily flamboyant and daring former executive editor of the *Washington Post*. As he recalled his excitement in last week's live discussion, "As the story progressed, the clues all pointed higher up, into the White House itself, and of course ultimately to the president himself. What newspaperman could begin against that?"

Unfortunately, with the current political climate and the onslaught of censure towards the "liberal media," editors of Bradlee's courage and vision are more elusive than ever. During the late "weapons of mass destruction" reporting blitz, most newspapers, including such "liberal media" insti-

tutions as the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, relied heavily on the incumbent administration's perspectives and gave too little critical examination of the way officials framed the events, issues, threats, and policy options.

That said, the shift of the journalistic attitude cannot be blamed entirely on the news media. Recently, the University of Connecticut conducted a survey of 112 003 high school students on First Amendment rights. A full 36 per cent of those surveyed believed that newspapers should get "government approval" of stories before publishing; 51 per cent say they should publish freely; 13 per cent have no opinion. The attitude of those 36 per cent of students—those who want their news neutered and pasteurized—is troubling and unhealthy. As readers, we should demand reporting with better critical perspectives and detailed analysis, not pre-approved government propaganda.

Watergate is more than a political milestone; it is also investigative journalism at its finest. The recent revelation of Deep Throat's identity not only gave the story an epilogue it deserves, it also reminded us that it's about time to adopt our old attitude: writers need to dig deeper into their stories, and readers must demand more out of their newspapers.

# THE GATEWAY

**The Gateway is looking for a few good volunteer artists and designers to help our paper look pretty.**

**We require those with the visual talents for illustrations to run with our fine articles, ranging from political cartoons to feature graphics.**

**Interested? Please contact:  
Iris Tse, Design & Production Editor  
at [production@gateway.ulberta.ca](mailto:production@gateway.ulberta.ca)**



## Education is more about product than process

Schools ignore the big picture, turn us into nothing but knowledge dumps



CHAD  
BARTISCH

After my convocation this Wednesday at exactly 10:22am, I moved on to my next inevitable step closer to the "real world." Consequently, the following will be both positive and meandering.

Reflecting on my own educational experience, six years and two degrees later, I cannot help but analyze the way our society approaches the notion of formal education. The combination of my recent graduation from the faculty of secondary education, and the fact that this means I am now a teacher, has further driven my reflection on what it means both to educate and to receive an education.

Although not without caveat, it seems as though our current educational system mirrors the all-mighty capitalist business mold. And it isn't simply kindergarten to grade twelve—our postsecondary system is the epitome of this model. It is, in its most crude form, a transactional model, predicated on the notion that one enters school as an empty container, with the expectation of being filled up with the correct amount and type of knowledge: no more and no less. This would explain all those who are after a business degree: school has become the modern-day panacea for the fiscally challenged.

The thought is that if you can earn a degree that will find you employment and allow the accumulation of more possessions than everyone else, your education has served you well. Never mind all that superfluous knowledge that feeds the soul.

School has become less about the process and more about the product. By process, I refer to the individual experiences that one encounters as he or she progresses through their schooling. These experiences are characterized by little stories of triumph or personal difficulties brought on by interaction with the various "big pictures" that are the subjects of our study. It is here where we start to conceptualize our lives and, to an extent, our places within that big picture.

However, many people have become callous to the individual experiences of students at the micro level and, as a result, are only concerned with the larger frame that focuses on the all-important "end product." A significant paradigm shift must take place in the way we view education if the individual experiences of students are to be included in academic discourse, thus enabling

### THE BURLAP SACK

This dual sack beating goes out to Edmonton's other sources of print news, specifically the esteemed Sun and its increasingly emulate brother, the Journal. Last week, these kings of New England and princes of Maine managed to set fantastically new lows in Edmonton news history.

First off, the Sun Now, of course, the Sun has never exactly been what we'll call a paragon of quality, but at the very least, they manage to, for the most part, report on news. Sensationalized, exploitative, big-headline news, but news. Last Thursday, though, on a day when the rest of the major dailies devoted their front pages to things like the Comerley inquiry, the Karla Homolka

them to construct healthier and fulfilling meanings for themselves about the world they live in.

With my formal schooling complete, I find myself on a precipice of sorts, with a completely different way of living before me. Furthermore, I have come to a perplexing realization: I am now about to become part of the system that, until recently, I have been able to analyze from a distance. I find it amazingly ironic that I am questioning the very legitimacy of the system that I am about to become an integral cog in.

Nevertheless, as I contemplate my own life, on the cusp of a teaching career, I hope that I've constructed my own meanings in a healthy manner, within a conceptual framework that will allow me to focus on the experiences of my students; at the same time helping them to build both the academic and social tools they need to live fulfilling lives.

trial, and a breakthrough at the U of A, the Sun decided to tell us that Ms. Canada had officially become Ms. Universe—complete with, of course, full-page picture. Evidently, it seems, "IT'S!" is now front-page news.

Of course, at least the Sun is just upholding its good name. The Journal on the other hand, is trashing theirs. Saturday's edition featured the Sun-inspired headline "Intersection of Death." I guess they forget the exclamation points, and to mention blood.

Yay Edmonton newspapers. I'm moving to Toronto.

DAVID BERRY

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

## The permanent solution for unwanted hair

Fast! Safe! Reliable!  
The latest Light Sheer® Technology—  
recommended by Harvard's leading researchers.

Our qualified, caring dermatology team will make a beautiful difference. Call today for a free confidential consultation.

**Sheer Alternative** 407-3777



Laser hair removal at the University Dermatology Centre

2-104, Clinical Sciences Building, University of Alberta Campus  
[www.sheeralternative.com](http://www.sheeralternative.com)

Teach English Overseas

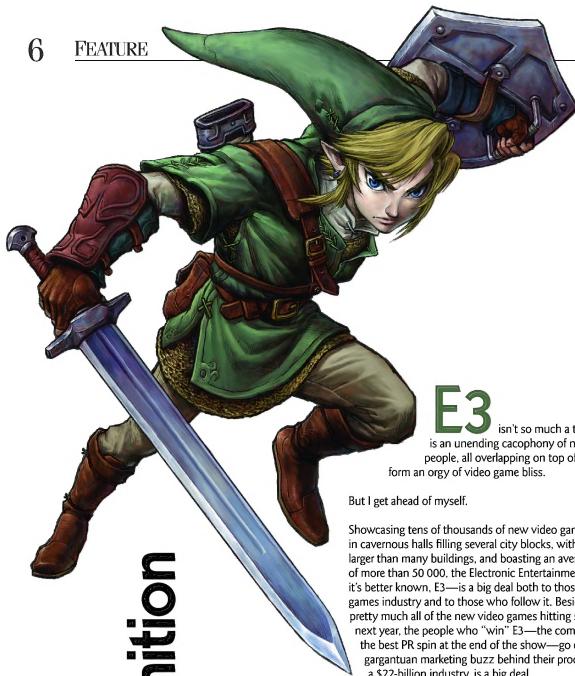
Free Info Seminar Tues @ 7pm  
7712 104 Street

**Job Guaranteed**

Call for a Free Info Pack:  
**1-888-270-2941**

[globaltesol.com](http://globaltesol.com)

**GLOBAL TESOL COLLEGE**



# Visions of Bliss in High Definition

E3

## E3

isn't so much a trade show as it is an unending cacophony of noise, lights and people, all overlapping on top of one another to form an orgy of video game bliss.

But I get ahead of myself.

Showcasing tens of thousands of new video game products in cavernous halls filling several city blocks, with giant booths larger than many buildings, and boasting an average attendance of more than 50 000, the Electronic Entertainment Expo—or, as it's better known, E3—is a big deal both to those running the games industry and to those who follow it. Besides announcing pretty much all of the new video games hitting stores in the next year, the people who "win" E3—the companies with the best PR spin at the end of the show—go out with a gargantuan marketing buzz behind their products, which, in a \$22-billion industry, is a big deal.

The show isn't only important to industry insiders either: hardcore gamers make a point of following the by-the-minute reporting done from the show floor with rapt attention. Even just reading about the new games isn't enough. It may be an old metaphor to call something a pilgrimage and an event or location a Mecca, but if you go on a gaming message board and ask who has made their pilgrimage to LA, everyone will know exactly what you're talking about. It's a trip that every nerd dreams of, and is the hope of all those who while away their weekends bashing Bowser or killing the Covenant. Every video game geek knows that, at least once in their lives, they need to go to E3. This year was my year.

Now, getting into E3 isn't exactly easy. As an industry tradeshow closed to the consumer public, the organizers make a point of keeping the average person out of the show. Only the truly dedicated can make their way through the rings of security and onto the floor. Some get crappy jobs at Electronic Boutique or Gamestop with the hopes that they will eventually become managers and get sent to LA. Others make up fake business cards, or create false businesses to get an invite to the show. Still others toll away in the press truck in the vain hope of some day getting a media pass to the show.

It took me almost a month to get my credentials certified, a tumultuous wait before I could purchase my plane tickets. A lucky break and some friendly help got me a place to stay. I was off to become a full-fledged gamer for life.

After a red-eye flight into the sprawling mass of suburb that is LA, and some much-needed sleep in a friend's hotel room, I got up at 7am to make the 8am breakfast/media briefing. After enduring a chaotic cab ride to the convention centre, which involved the cabby trying to drive us through a security blockade, I was ready to begin.

I made my way to the doors more than an hour before they were open and arranged myself among the already teeming masses of people.

By the time the security guards were set to unleash E3 to the world, I was worried about getting trampled by the multitudes behind me, who had taken up the entirety of the football-field-sized lobby. When the hour arrived, we moved forward as one, a throng of people with a single mind, and a single purpose.

Spread before me in the hall were hundreds of tall structures laid-out haphazardly, each with stretches of metal and lights screaming to grab attention away from each other. Booth attendants with skimpy costumes highlighting their plastic bodies stood poised to withstand the gaze of a thousand eyes. Huge screens and voices over loud speakers announced

upcoming games and products, and thousands of gaming kiosks littered the booth floors, ready for show-goers to sup in their demonstrations of unreleased product.

Quickly scanning my surroundings, I found an open console and started playing. It was showcasing a new *Incredible Hulk* game in the style of *Grand Theft Auto*. I lost myself in the smashing and jumping, and jumping and smashing before finishing the objectives and turning around to try something else.

While I was lost in Hulktown, approximately an infinite number of people had come in after me. The show floor was now a collection of elbows and sweat, almost impossible to navigate. Within ten minutes of the doors being open, three-hour-long lines had formed in front of both Sony's and Nintendo's booths, with eager nerds waiting to watch *PlayStation 3* tech demos and play the new *Legend of Zelda*, respectively.

Deciding that I needed to check out what was going on in the other hall instead of fighting for space with the diehards in line, I made my way across to the West Hall to see Microsoft's booth. Having been constructed with a sleek modern amalgamation of steel and glass, the Xbox booth stood out as a ziggurat of gaming and marketing synergy. With ramps creating two floors worth of space, an exclusive lounge and a section of offices in the back, the booth was a PR machine designed to hollow out the minds of all who entered and replace them with visions of bliss in high definition. A few game demos later, I stumbled away from the Microsoft booth, dreams of Xboxes and *Halo* dancing through my head.

By this point, actually moving through the show floor became an active chore. People piled on top of people as they struggled to find the next big game or learn about the product they had been anticipating for years. I found that, when not pushing through crowds and being wowed by tech demos the majority of E3 is spent waiting line for stuff much like communist Russia.

As negative as this might sound, it isn't that bad: it allowed me to converse with my fellow show-goers; although now their conversation seems more like a blur than any one solid interaction.

"Did you see the *Devil May Cry 3* trailer? It sucked." "What line is this?" "Zelda I think. Well, I hope." "You've stood in line for two hours to 'hope' for *Zelda*?" "Yep." "Man, did you play *Burnout: Revenge!* It rocks!" "Did you see the *Frag Dolls* in action?" "I came up from Mobile to see this!"

The show was overwhelming. There were so many things, and so little time to see them all.

After I left LA two days later, I sat and thought about my experience in the expo. Looking at the media reports coming out of the conference, it became clear to me that everything had been covered with such detail on the Internet that an interested person could easily find out everything that I knew about the upcoming products hawked at the conference. In fact, in many cases, those who read the Internet knew more about what was going on than I did. Like a vitriolic street preacher, the sights and sounds of the show obscured as much truth as they revealed.

However, the experience of being attacked from all sides by information madness and coming together with 50 000 other like-minded individuals wasn't something that news reporting even attempted to convey. The purpose of the trip wasn't to find out the latest news about video games, as I may have thought: it was to come to the place where this particular industry, and this particular culture, came together and celebrated itself.

Of course, these words can't convey quite the experience of the trip: you might just have to find your way into E3 yourself.



**Feature Story by Dan Kaszor**

# SPORTS

## Bears hockey to play three NCAA teams in Minnesota

University of Minnesota, Minnesota State and St Cloud State will all face defending CIS champ Bears in early October scrimmages

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
Sports Writer

A debate that has stood the test of time may finally be resolved when hockey season rolls around: if pitted in a setting conducive to each combatant, could a Golden Bear defeat a Golden Gopher?

The Bears will swing through Minnesota from 6-8 October and are slated for contests against the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers, Minnesota State Mavericks and St Cloud State Huskies. These games will mark the first time since the 2001/02 season that the Bears will be going south of the border with the opportunity to face some tough NCAA competition.

While Minnesota State and St Cloud State have been respectable NCAA programs and should provide good opposition for Canada's top university squad, they won't be the toughest teams on the trip. That honour will go to the Golden Gophers—who are owners of five NCAA titles, including back-to-back championships in 2002 and 2003, and a team that is consistently ranked among the best in US college hockey.

Facing off against high-quality opponents doesn't intimidate Bears head coach Rob Daum, who believes his team will match up well with some of the best the NCAA has to offer.

"We've always been competitive when we've played against NCAA teams [in the past] ... it's just really difficult for teams to make these kind of trips, because you're always playing in someone else's arena and you're always playing with things in favour of the home team," said Daum. "We have a history of being very competitive in these types of games, and I don't think it will be any different this time around."

"We're not looking at this as a chance to prove anything; I think we've proven in the past that we're competitive with any university in North America, and this isn't a trip for us to try and demonstrate that again," said Daum.

While the Bears aren't looking to show the American teams how good they are, the battle between two of the best hockey programs on the continent will provide more fuel to the debate over whether or not there is a disparity between the skill level of the two university hockey circuits and if the CIS is an inferior league, a notion that



**BIG GOALS** Ben Kilgour (pictured) and the rest of the Golden Bears hockey team will go up against three top hockey programs this fall in Minnesota. FILE PHOTO: NICK WEIR

Daum rejects.

"I think the skill level [between the two] is very comparable. If you take the top teams in Canadian university hockey, they're comparable with any of the teams in the NCAA," said Daum. "I think there's more depth in the NCAA. I think there are a greater number of teams playing at a higher level overall, but our top teams here would be very competitive with any of their top teams."

Bears fans who want to see their team take on

NCAA competition will be hard-pressed to see it locally, as it's been five years and counting since any NCAA school rolled into Clare Drake. A variety of reasons, the least of which being stringent rules regarding non-conference play, make it doubtful that an American team will be coming to Edmonton at any foreseeable point in the near future.

"[NCAA's] rules are very restrictive. It's not as easy for them to play here. [With] the rules they have regarding travel, they have to plan well

in advance to do those types of things," explained Daum. "Having said that, come Christmas time [American athletics programs] have plenty of opportunities for high-quality games and tournaments in their own country. So they're not as likely to travel, because it's just as easy for them to get some top-calibre competition close to home."

After completing their trip to Minnesota, the Bears will begin the defense of their championship the weekend of 14 October.

## Basketball recruit aims to exceed expectations in his first year

Andrew Parker brings his high-flying act to Don Horwood's hoop team with hopes of becoming a marquee player

CHRIS OLEARY  
Sports Editor

When most people are using the hour between noon and one for their lunch break, Andrew Parker uses his as a measuring stick for the upcoming basketball season.

While the Golden Bears' basketball recruit has made a regular habit out of playing pickup ball in the Main Gym over the last year, the competition in these sorts of games is always questionable. However, after Parker spent the first few games of the day driving at will and nailing pull-up jumpers on his opposition, a team with former Golden Bear standout Phil Scherer made its way onto the court. The unquestioned authority he held wasn't the same with a former first-team all-Canadian defending him, but Parker wasn't completely contained, either.

"After playing with Scherer now, that's an eye-opener. I've got to work that much harder," the 6'5" guard-forward said after the scrimmage. "But, that's what I do. Every day I'm in the pavilion, at the YMCA ... just [working] every day with no rest."

Parker's work ethic is paying off for him. After transferring to the University from Concordia college, he spent last season rounding out his game, adding an outside shot, ball-handling and passing skills to a level of athleticism that might be unparalleled in the Canada West division. Golden Bears' head coach Don Horwood has said Parker has

"NBA athleticism."

"360 behind the legs, 360 behind the back, behind the back in the air ... I used to do foul line until I hurt my ankle and I haven't tried it again," he said of the highlight reel-worthy dunks he can put down. "I'm one of the few who can do that [NBA athletes] can do, let's put it that way."

Parker has been showing off what he can do to a wide audience lately. In April, at the Golden Bears identification camp, he was dominant at times, as the sounds of his emphatic jams consistently drew all eyes in the gym to the court he was playing on.

"ID camp is the ID camp. I saw everyone around me and I didn't see anyone like me," he said. "When I went to the States I saw a couple guys like me, but I'm still unique."

He credits much of his basketball success to his older brother Steven, who played on the last Bears team to win a national championship, back in 2002. "When you have a brother who's the best [player] in the city, when you have that to look up to, you have to be good. Sometimes it's good to have a bully [around you]; someone stronger, smarter, better than you; for me it's good because now I'm well recognized, well accepted. If it wasn't for Steve always being better than me, I probably would have picked up checkers or chess or something, not basketball."

While his brother may have helped him learn the game, and his athleticism will undoubtedly generate attention for him over the next few years,

Parker remains grateful to Horwood for giving him the opportunity to suit up for the Bears.

**"When you have a brother who's the best [player] in the city, when you have that to look up to, you have to be good. Sometimes it's good to have a bully [around you]; someone stronger, smarter, better than you; for me it's good because now I'm well recognized, well accepted. If it wasn't for Steve always being better than me, I probably would have picked up checkers or chess or something, not basketball."**

**BEARS' RECRUIT  
ANDREW PARKER**

"I respect Horwood a lot. He took a really, really gamble on me. A lot of people would say I'm not coachable, but, really, I am; I just haven't had a coach in over two years. He's been very loyal to

me and I respect loyalty, because that's basically what I live on: loyalty to my family and friends. I respect Horwood so much."

After watching the Bears from the stands this past season, Parker has set his sights on proving himself to his opponents in the Canada West division.

"O'Neal Gordon at Brandon has got hops, but I'm a big-time competitor, so I'll never give him full credit, especially when I know I can do the things that he can do. Hopefully I can do those things and then some, but he's been in this league for a while and I'm just coming in. I'll give him some credit, but not full. We're both competitors—he'd understand that," Parker said.

Parker, along with backcourt players Alex Steele and Jeff Lander, forwards Jeff Stork, Ryan Kram and Cranbrook's Harvey Bradford make up the list of Horwood's six incoming recruits. Considering the depth of Alberta's roster, Parker may not see a great deal of court time in his inaugural season as a Bear. He remains focused on working his way into the rotation and notes that the team will be in a good position to win a lot of games in 2005/06.

"[Whether] it's Saskatchewan, Lethbridge, Carleton, anybody. We just want to win. I think we got a winning mentality. We've just got to convert that mentality into productive energy and let that do the rest. There's no reason that we shouldn't be in [nationals next season]. That's a big thing to say, but I always play for the highest achievements."



### This was a dodgeball, once.

Playing sports is dangerous. One minute you're at the top of your game; the next, you're missing half your face 'cause some jerk exploded a big rubber ball on your sorry ass.

But relief is in sight! Come up to 3-04 SUB and ask for **OBS**. He'll show you everything you'll need to know about sports writing, with half the pain of actually playing. Swoooeeeet.

### THE GATEWAY

## WANTED: Survey Interviewers

- Major social policy research firm in downtown Edmonton needs people to conduct nation-wide telephone surveys
- No experience required, but friendly professional communication skills are essential
- Bilingualism an asset
- Part-time hours available for evenings and weekends, with flexible scheduling
- 1 block from LRT
- NO SALES OR TELEMARKETING**
- Starting wage is \$9.00/hr



[edmonton@ekos.com](mailto:edmonton@ekos.com)  
OR 408-5233 (fax)

### Do you know what game this is?

If you said "hockey," then you're not a complete loss. If you said "NHL '95," then you need to get up here and write for sports. Now, who knows, we might even let you skate blindly all over the place surrounded by a giant glowing star. It's tricky at first, but you pick it up pretty quick.

Just try not to trip on all those giant numbers following you around, okay?



### THE GATEWAY



University of Alberta Career and Placement Services (CaPS)

## Spring Into a Career

Attend a CaPS Workshop and Seminar in June

**Looking for Work Abroad - FREE Seminar**  
June 20, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. (Room 2-100, SUB)

**Applying for Work Abroad - FREE Seminar**  
June 21, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. (Room 2-100, SUB)

#### 4.0 Resumes Workshop

Come to CaPS (2-100 SUB) to pre-register  
June 22, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. (Room 4-02 SUB)

#### Acing the Interview Workshop

Come to CaPS (2-100 SUB) to pre-register  
June 22, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. (Room 4-02 SUB)

**Can I take a test to tell me what to do with the rest of my life? - FREE Seminar**  
June 23, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. (Room 2-100, SUB)

**Tapping the Hidden Job Market Through Networking FREE Seminar**  
June 24, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. (Room 2-100, SUB)

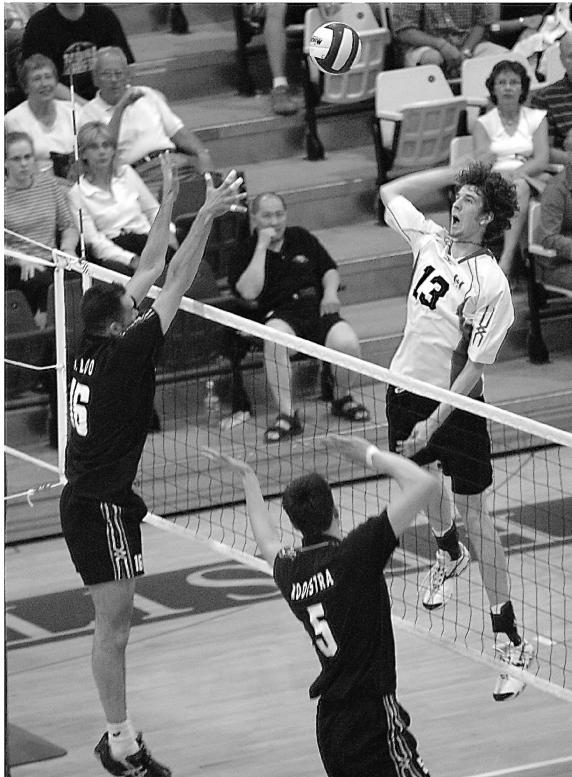
**Career Decision Making Strategies Workshop**  
Come to CaPS (2-100 SUB) to pre-register  
June 27, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Room 4-02 SUB)

**Negotiating and Evaluating Job Offers - FREE Seminar**  
June 28, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. (Room 2-100, SUB)

**Cover Letters and Other Work Search Letters - FREE Seminar**  
June 29, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. (Room 2-100, SUB)

[www.ualberta.ca/caps](http://www.ualberta.ca/caps) • 780-492-4291

**Establishing a Career Outside of Academia**  
A workshop for graduate students  
Thursday, June 30, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
(Room 4-02 SUB)



**LEARNING EXPERIENCE** Although Canada's A2 men's volleyball team (of which half of the roster consists of Golden Bears) lost all of their matches against the touring Netherlands over the span of a week, they still feel that learned a great deal. This was readily apparent in their final match last Sunday (pictured) in the Main Gym, where they played the best match of their province-wide tour, taking the Dutch to five sets 25-23, 13-25, 25-17, 22-25, 13-15.

## Hoop gods can't stand the Heat



CHRIS O'LEARY

Sports  
Commentary

As the Detroit Pistons brought the championship hopes of the Miami Heat to a crashing halt on Monday night, it confirmed a theory that has been discussed for years in basketball circles: the basketball gods are the most sadistic group of gods you'll ever encounter.

This isn't a title that's easily thrown around. Consider the actions of the gods of war, of celebrity culture, or worse yet, reality television, and then re-think the actions of the basketball gods—they're on a level unto themselves.

There's an endless number of victims of the gods' cruelty, but let's focus on their most recent targets. Miami was playing brilliantly in the Eastern Conference Final. Dwyane Wade's manhandling of the Pistons in the first four games of the series was Jordan-like, as he was lighting up a Pistons team renowned for their defensive prowess to the tune of 27 points per game. Then, in game five, Wade, who was carrying the offensive load for an already injured Shaquille O'Neal, went

down with a rib-muscle injury. Miami went on to win the game and secure a 3-2 series lead. However, with their top two players now nursing injuries, Heat fans could only watch helplessly as the Pistons steamrolled a Wade-less Heat team in game six, and were able to pull away from the two injured superstars in the final minutes of game seven. The Pistons celebrated, Heat fans cried, and the basketball gods high-fived on another job well done.

**Charles Barkley must have said something during his long, loud-mouthed career thatirked the gods, hence his 15 years in the NBA without a championship.**

good enough; it's just that they were victims of a higher power that easily holds a grudge.

Which brings us back to the Heat. When the gods don't like a team, they'll toy with them. They'll give them hope through the regular season and let them win anywhere from 50-60 games; they'll send them deep into the playoffs and let what was hope grow into belief; they'll even let the team get a win from their goal (think of the 1994 Finals when the Knicks took the Rockets to game seven, then lost), and then, when success is within the team's collective grasp, the gods rip it away from the team, crushing the spirit of anyone foolish enough to believe that this year would be different.

However, like the parent who takes the keys out of their child's hand before they can get to an electrical socket, the basketball gods know what's best for fans of the game. While a Finals contest between the Phoenix Suns and Miami Heat may have been more entertaining to watch, the well-rested San Antonio Spurs and the defending champion Pistons are the two best teams in basketball. Before anyone writes this series off as a defensive struggle that will be settled under the basket, have faith in the gods—they haven't steered us wrong yet. Unless you hate the Bulls, Lakers, Spurs and Pistons, in which case, the gods may hate you too.

# With just a little help from their friends

Edmonton quartet Five O'Clock Charlie hit the road with a full-length album, thanks to friends, family, and eager Saskatoonians



## *Five O'Clock Charlie*

with Storyboard and Bramwell & The Leftovers  
Powerplant  
Thursday, 16 June

DAVID BERRY  
Managing Editor

As local alt-rockers Five O'Clock Charlie have found out, it pays to have a little help from your friends. The quartet—composed of University of Alberta students Craig Schram (guitar/vocals), Steve Tchr (guitar/vocals), Trevor Belley (bass) and Dave Meagher (drums)—has had more than a little help getting their feet on the ground and ready to kick-off their first cross-country tour, and it's a help that has come from everywhere, from their friends in local bands to some hospitable, good-natured Saskatoonians.

"At one show in Saskatoon, we were just like, 'We don't have a place to stay, can anyone give us a place to sleep?' and this group of five people was like, 'Hey, we've got a house,'" explains Dave Meagher, sitting in the Powerplant sipping a Coke as Craig Schram looks on. "We ended up staying at the home of some kid whose parents were away. It was great, we each had our own bed, and they made us breakfast in the morning."

Of course, a lot of the help the Charlies have received comes from closer to home—in fact, most of it actually comes from home, as the band members' parents have helped contribute everything from the van they're planning on touring in to the design for their first album, the recently released *Bicycle*.

"The album artwork was done by Trevor's dad. He painted this really nice sort of prairie landscape and a friend turned it into liner

notes for us," says Meagher, before adding, "Our parents are definitely supportive of what we do—they're not all painters, but they help out how they can. Like, my mom made cookies once, and we gave them out at a show. That was nice."

The biggest help, though, has definitely been their friends on the local music scene. From playing guest spots on the album to coming with the band to form the Five O'Clock Charlie Army—a loose amalgam of the regular foursome with members of Storyboard and Bramwell and the Leftovers, who coincidentally will be sharing the show's bill—the Charlies' friends have been around for them, even if, as Craig Schram explains, the whole idea of a group had somewhat suspicious beginnings.

"I was reading Harry Potter, and people were talking about Dumbledore's army," he says as he looks down at the table, "and I was like, well, we should have a Five O'Clock Charlie Army."

"But it's always really fun to do it, and I feel like, this time, we're actually going to be really prepared for it," Schram continues. "And the Powerplant actually has the power and the stuff to do this. The other times we've done it, we've always been scrambling for stuff, like, 'Who has a microphone? We need to mic the cello!'"

"But, yeah, this one will be good. We always have jam parties with these people, anyway. We'll go over to Steve's house and bring our instruments, and..."

"Make noise," interrupts Meagher.

"Yeah, get drunk and—and make noise," adds Schram.

Hey, what else are friends for?

# The Green Butchers just barely fit for consumption

Danish comedy about cannibalism in a meat shop is technically well done, but too many ingredients leave it feeling stuffed

## *The Green Butchers*

Directed by Anders Thomas Jensen  
Starring Mads Mikkelsen and Nikolaj Lie Kaas  
Metro Cinema  
10–13 June at 9:15pm

GEOFF CLARKE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Sometimes a black comedy isn't so much "black" or "comedic" as it is stuck somewhere in-between exploring its dramatic subject matter and making a serious attempt at humour. A cult hit in its native Denmark, *The Green Butchers* is a self-billed black comedy that explores the taboo of cannibalism. Though competently made, the film seems confused about its direction: it is simultaneously too macabre to be a straight-up drama, while not funny enough to be labelled a comedy.

The film focuses on Bjarne and Svend, two disgruntled meat-shop employees who, in an attempt to show up their jackson boss, open their own butcher shop. After a fatal mishap involving a portly electrician and a hasty decision to utilize his death for revenge upon their former employer, Bjarne and Svend find themselves the purveyors of their town's hottest meat-based sensation. This new-found popularity forces the pair to scramble for fresh supplies of the mystery meat, leading to a rising body count.

In order to pad out this main plot, writer/director Anders Thomas Jensen tacks on both a romantic subplot and a narrative involving Bjarne's estranged, brain-damaged twin brother. Sure, these plot strains somewhat succeed in deepening Bjarne's characterization, but romance and brotherly relations don't exactly gel with the cannibal narrative, and accordingly feel



like filler.

However, the subplots are congruent with the film's tone. Jensen has filmed the movie like a character-driven drama, complete with sombre music and understated camera work. Although he manages to do this all competently, it is nonetheless hard to shake the feeling that the movie should have been either darker or funnier, in accordance with it being about selling human meat out of a butcher shop. The film's focus on character particularly hurts its surprisingly earnest ending, which imparts the tired old adage that the best way to succeed in life is to just be

yourself. Quaint, but an ending like this avoids dealing with the consequences of the characters' actions, which might work well with the film, but contradicts the character-driven storyline that Jensen was apparently making his secondary focus. All of this would be fine if the movie was more overtly comedic—comedy often contains sudden, nonsensical denouements—but in this dramatic framework, such a tidy resolution comes off as lazy.

Nevertheless, lead actors Mads Mikkelsen and Nikolaj Lie Kaas are effective as the titular butchers, despite their unappealing characters. Mikkelsen's

Svend is especially dislikeable; it feels like we're supposed to sympathize with this creepy, self-pitying loser, but doing so becomes difficult to not impossible—when he begins murdering to compensate for feelings of inadequacy.

*The Green Butchers* is by no means a bad film; buoyed by its strong acting and unconventional plot, it does have moments of dramatic intensity. But because it is neither dark nor humorous enough to fully make the grade as a black comedy, the film fights against the viewer's expectations of how one expects a subject as unconventional as cannibalism to be presented.

## Where would you rather be studying next winter: Alberta or Tuscany?

When you attend the U of A campus in Cortona, Italy, you'll be taught by U of A instructors teaching U of A credit courses.

- Classes taught in English
- Scholarships available

Information for Cortona 2006 can be found at the **Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Student Services Office, 6-7 Humanities Centre, University of Alberta.**

Please contact:  
[cortona@ualberta.ca](mailto:cortona@ualberta.ca)  
Phone: (780) 492-6292  
or 492-7611



[www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/arts/cortona.cfm](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/arts/cortona.cfm)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 21, 2005



# Blonde Redhead's momentous past

New York band's turbulent history has inspired their work, but their eventful upbringing has made them more creative than ever

## Blonde Redhead

with 302 Acid  
New City  
15 and 16 June

JAMES STORRIE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Blonde Redhead have something in the works, but they're not talking. When asked about the new album they're planning, Simone Pace of the New York trio is tight-lipped: "I might say something that will be completely different later, and I don't want to make a fool of myself," Pace chuckles.

"We just started writing it two weeks ago," he explains. "I know we want to create something sonically developed, but not as rich or complicated as the last album... but I don't think I should be talking about this. It's too early. I don't want to say anything—I'll regret."

If it were any other group, one might be tempted to just expect more of the same, but the band—singer Kazu Makino and twin guitar/drummers Amadeo and Simone—have been dramatically changing their approach over the course of their last two releases. Formed in 1993, the group at first resembled their no-wave fellows Sonic Youth, but have moved through a period of dissonant art-rock releases into something that surprisingly resembled the classic pop of French provocateur Serge Gainsbourg. The move, says Pace, was conscious. "We wanted to have a more rich sound. We wanted to have an orchestra, so we started using more keyboards. Kazu started playing

the clavinet... it took away from the guitars, but added different things."

"But," he adds, "it's not as complicated as it sounds. The most complicated thing I think is Amadeo having so many guitars."

If Pace downplays their dramatic shift of focus, it may come from the lack of a frame of reference: since distancing themselves from their mentors in the mid-nineties, Blonde Redhead has essentially worked in a genre of their own. "I never felt like we were really part of anything," says Pace. "We tried, but, being who we are, it was difficult to belong to something completely. I guess it had to do with the fact that we were not from here," he explains. Kazu was an art student from Japan when they met, and the Pace brothers had come from Italy. "We're very much loners."

T he think that the closest connection we ever found was with the Washington DC scene, when there were bands like Fugazi and Lungfish. It's because we felt we could relate to the people; they were warm and kind, so it was easy for us to feel like we belonged. At the very beginning, we were just researching, just trying to figure out what we could do and what was most natural for us."

What was most natural for the band first made itself overtly known on their acclaimed 2000 release, *Melody of Certain Damaged Lemons*, but listeners had to wait four years to hear the next step in that direction. Singer Makino was seriously injured in a horse-riding accident, which delayed the release of 2004's



Misery Is A Butterfly for quite some time.

There were also label issues; the trio moved from Touch and Go to 4AD for a variety of reasons, including wanting to own their own master tapes. *Misery Is A Butterfly* was paid for and recorded by the band itself before they signed. "It's very hard to put so much responsibility on a label," Pace says. "You get so upset if something doesn't happen. But it wasn't extremely expensive, and still much cheaper than most albums.

We always find a way of not wasting money on stupid things."

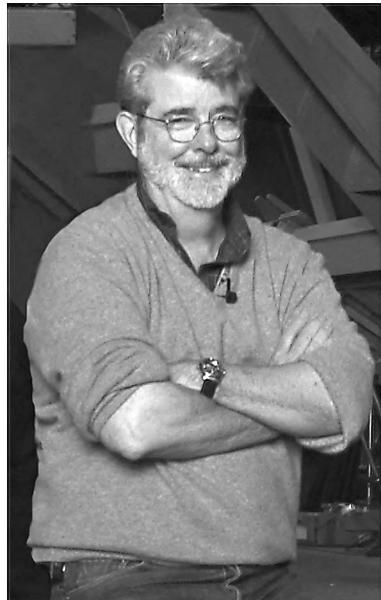
However, the hardship of these past few years has paid off; the group has seen increased success and toured widely. After playing Edmonton next week, the band is going off for a short tour in France, returning to North America to play Lollapalooza, and then spending some time in Iceland.

As their latest work has been more thoroughly produced and dependent on additional instruments, reworking the pieces for live play is an outlet

for creativity in itself. "It's a work in progress," says Pace. "We're still making changes, developing the songs while we play them, trying different things. The better we try, so things are always changing."

Edmonton listeners will soon have the opportunity to hear both the reworked material and the new pieces that Pace is so secretive about, and that in itself will be interesting. Yet as silent as the tight-lipped trio may be, their music does all the talking.

## Star Wars may not be perfect, but Lucas gets it mostly right



TYSON DURST as Jar Jar Binks singing a duet with Chewbacca, let's move on.

If you were to read the various articles in the media these days about Star Wars, you would likely conclude that George Lucas has personally kicked peoples' puppies and digitally removed rainbows from their neighbourhoods.

You've either seen or heard about the final film in the Star Wars saga, known as *Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, and either loved it, liked it well enough, hated it or you don't know a bantha from a taun-taun and could care less about all the hoopla. Nevertheless, I've decided to throw my two cents about these little independent films.

To start off, critics have often slammed the new Star Wars films for the acting and writing, noting that George Lucas should have taken cues from the performances by Natalie Portman in *Closer* or Ewan McGregor's performance in *Trainspotting* or Samuel L. Jackson in *Pulp Fiction*. If that had panned out, though dialogue in the prequels would have gone more like this:

Mace Windu: I think we need to throw down with these Sith mother-fuckers and slap that Sith bitch silly, I will. Destroy that evil fucker I must!

Doesn't quite work, does it? Now that I've made that point about as subtly

as Jar Jar Binks singing a duet with Chewbacca, let's move on.

The other big area that Lucas has gotten criticized in is the visual effects department.

People practically screaming,

"Dammit George, everything is CG now! How I miss the Yoda puppet

from *The Empire Strike Back* that came out 25 years ago!"

Frank Oz may be one of the best puppets in the business, but was he supposed to put on a blue body suit and then shave his hand up Yoda's 800-year-old rectum and perform all of Yoda's acrobatic stunts while also doing his lightsaber choreography?

**Star Wars takes place in a galaxy far, far away, and digital technology is required to help bring that galaxy of Jedis, Wookiees, and clone-troopers to the screen for a new generation.**

And all too often, people who sound off on special effects reveal that they are largely ignorant of how various scenes and sequences are achieved. They'd likely be surprised to find that there were still a lot of traditional techniques being used to bring the new Star Wars films to life.

Despite this, Star Wars gets trashed

World of Tomorrow—which relied on CG even more than a new Star Wars flick—get a free ride with nobody really calling them on it.

Star Wars takes place in a galaxy far, far away, and digital technology is required to help bring that galaxy of Jedis, Wookiees, and clone-troopers to the screen for a new generation. Asking Industrial Light & Magic to throw away their computers would be like an editor asking me to toss my computer out the window and only write articles on a typewriter to get a more "real, nostalgic feel" out of my words.

Is Lucas perfect? Of course not, and neither are his most famous films. They've got their share of flaws, but for me, George Lucas has done more good than bad with the Star Wars saga. Can you name another six-film franchise that gets people lining up for every film and smashing box office records all over the place? Few creations manage to reach the state of utter familiarity that Star Wars has achieved.

Like millions of other people, I've got my own little anecdotes about seeing *Return of the Jedi* in theaters when I was three years old, catching the Star Wars bug and then feeling that thrill again sixteen years later when I got an opportunity to meet Warwick Davis (*Wicket the Ewok*) and Anthony Daniels (C-3PO) in person.

But you've likely heard many warm and fuzzy stories about the impact that this epic space opera fantasy has had on so many people, so I'll just cut it short and say, "Thanks, George."

Now, as Kevin Smith said in *Rolling Stone*, "we can finally stop talking about fucking Star Wars."

